

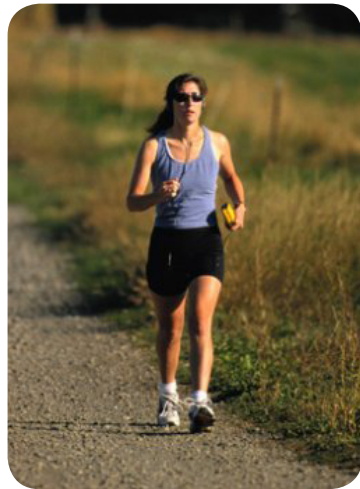
# Moving Into the Future!

With adequate community and financial support, Wichita has the potential to become a city with a world class park and recreation system, diverse recreation opportunities, and a vibrant economy. As a result of investments in parks and



recreation, the City of Wichita will be more desirable to potential residents, employers, and tourists. However, more funding is needed to achieve this vision.

The City must decide now the course it will take to provide adequate parks and recreation services for the next 20 years. With additional funding, Wichita can correct past deficiencies, address deterioration of existing park infrastructure, and ensure equitable levels of service for all residents – now and in the future. The PROS vision can be achieved with the commitment of citizens, the Park and Recreation Department, and City leaders. By working toward this common vision, we can transform the park and recreation system into a signature asset for the City.



the next 20 years, it is important to present this comprehensive vision of community needs. This will allow the City to take advantage of appropriate funding sources which we cannot currently foresee.

### Closing the Funding Gap

Multiple approaches will be needed to close the funding gap and implement this Plan. Some funding ideas presented in this Plan may be enthusiastically adopted while others will be discarded. Although not all projects identified in the PROS Plan are likely to be funded in

### Funding for Capital Projects

With the City's current level of funding for parks and recreation, it would take more than 100 years to make needed improvements to existing parks and facilities - without acquiring or developing any new parks needed to accommodate population growth. The funding gap is enormous! However, the City has a number of options for increasing funding for the PROS capital program. These include G.O. Bonds, Special Assessments, a Sales Tax, and Federal, State, and Private grants.



### Funding for Maintenance and Programs

The City will need to increase revenues and/or reduce costs to pay for more maintenance and for expanded facilities and programs. Possible sources include increased General Fund support and increased fees collected from program users. The Department may reduce costs by upgrading facilities or by saving money in other ways.



## Wichita Park, Recreation, and Open Space Plan Executive Summary

### What is the PROS Plan?

The PROS Plan describes Wichita's park and recreation system for the next ten to twenty years. Developed over eighteen months with the participation of more than 2,900 residents, this Plan presents a vision for parks, recreation, and open space. It recognizes the central role of Wichita's park and recreation system in building community, supporting human development, preserving natural areas, and enhancing quality of life and the local economy.

Although Wichita has some of the elements needed to become a great park and recreation system, it has lacked both public support and funding to become all it can be. With the development of the PROS Plan, the City must make decisions about its future. These decisions will either lead to continued inequities in service and deterioration of existing parks or to a reinvestment in a revitalized parks and recreation system.

This PROS Plan is a call to action. Please join us in creating a better future for our City through adequate investment in parks and recreation.

### Major PROS Plan Improvements

The Plan calls for:

- A park within 1 mile of every resident
- Reinvestment in most existing parks
- Acquisition and development of 8 new parks in City limits
- In the long term, acquisition and development of 15 parks in the planned growth area
- A Neighborhood Center within 2 miles of every resident
- Improved Neighborhood Center recreation programs
- Trail connections throughout the City
- More funding for parks and recreation



The map inside depicts the Wichita's future park system. The back page describes how the City can close the funding gap and implement this Plan.

Please visit [www.wichitaPROSplan.org](http://www.wichitaPROSplan.org) for more information and to provide your comments!

Inside: A Map of the Parks System of the Future!



*We envision an interconnected and accessible system of vibrant public spaces, friendly neighborhood parks, thriving natural areas and diverse recreation opportunities that make our city a healthy and active place in which to live, work, and play.*





# Park System of the Future

